1   1. A method for partially synchronizing a local
2 database stored on a local computer and a remote database
3 stored on a remote computer, the method comprising:
4   forming a message including information related to a
5 local update of the local database;
6   selecting a path from one or more communication
7 paths coupling the local computer to the remote computer to
8 pass the message to the remote computer;
9   transmitting data including the message to the
10 remote computer over the selected path;
11   receiving the data at the remote computer;
12   processing the message included in the received data
13 and providing the information related to the local update to
14 a remote application executing on the remote computer; and
15   updating a remote database coupled to the remote
16 application using the information related to the local
17 update.

1   2. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 determining whether the local update to the local database
3 should be sent to the remote computer.

1   3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2   accepting from the remote application information
3 related to a remote update of the remote database;
4   selecting a return path from the one or more
5 communication paths coupling the local computer to the
6 remote computer to transmit the information related to the
7 remote update to the local computer;
8   transmitting the information related to the remote
9 update to the message router over the selected return path;
10 and

11   updating the local database using the information

12   related to the remote update.

1   4.   The method of claim 2 wherein:

2   determining whether the local update to the local

3   database should be sent to the remote computer includes

4   accessing a local application coupled to the local database

5   using a first application communication protocol; and

6   wherein

7   providing the information to the remote application

8   uses a second application communication protocol.

1   5   The method of 4 wherein the first application

2   communication protocol is MAPI and the second application

3   communication protocol is POP.

1   6.   The method of claim 3 wherein the local

2   database and the remote database include electronic mail

3   messages.

1   7.   The method of claim 3 wherein the local

2   database and the remote database include personal calendar

3   information.

1   8.   The method of claim 3 further comprising

2   setting configuration data, and wherein selecting the path

3   from the one or more communication paths for transmission to

4   the remote computer includes accessing that configuration

5   data.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 further comprising

2   setting configuration data on the remote computer, and

3   wherein selecting the return path from the one or more

4 communication paths for transmission to the local computer

5 includes accessing that configuration data.

1   10. The method of claim 3 wherein transmitting the

2 data to the remote computer over the selected path for the

3 message includes:

4   transmitting the data to a networked server over a

5 first data network;

6   storing the data in a networked database hosted on

7 the networked server;

8   providing the data from the networked database to

9 the remote computer over a second communication network.

1   11. The method of claim 10 wherein the first data

2 network is the Internet and the second data network is a

3 wireless data network.

1   12. The method of claim 10 wherein the data is

2 stored in the networked database as electronic mail.

1   13. The method of claim 10 further comprises:

2   encrypting the message prior to transmission to the

3 networked server; and

4   decrypting the message after receipt of the message

5 at the remote computer.

1   14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   establishing the selected path, wherein the selected

3 path passes through a communication interface; and

4   buffering the data in the communication interface

5 until the selected communication path is established.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 further comprising
2   combining data for a plurality of messages for transmission
3   to the remote computer as a single transmission packet.
4
5   16.   A method for providing a remote computer access
6   to a local database, the method comprising:
7   sending a message, including information related to
8   a local update to the local database over a first data
9   network to a networked computer;
10   receiving the message at the networked computer;
11   updating a networked database hosted on the
12   networked computer using the information related to the
13   local update;
14   accessing and updating the networked database from a
15   remote computer over a second data network;
16   sending a message that includes information related
17   to the update of the networked database from the networked
18   computer over the first data network;
19   receiving the message that includes the information
20   related to the update of the networked database; and
21   updating the local database using the information
22   related to the update of the networked database.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the first data
2   network is the Internet and the second data network is a
3   wireless data network.

1   18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the local
2   database and the networked database include electronic mail
3   messages.

1   19.   The method of claim 16 wherein sending the
2   message that includes information related to the local

3 update includes sending a message formatted as a request for
4 data using an application protocol, and receiving the
5 message that includes the information related to the update
6 of the networked database includes receiving a message
7 formatted as a response to a request using the application
8 protocol;

9   whereby communication between the local computer and
10 the remote computer passes through a gateway device which
11 restricts communication to protocols including the
12 application protocol.

1   20. The method of claim 19 wherein the application
2 protocol is http and the messages are formatted using HTML.

1   21. A system comprising:
2   a local database;
3   an agent for accessing information related to a
4 local update of the local database, and for forming a
5 message including that information for transmission to a
6 remote computer;
7   a message router for accepting the message from the
8 agent, and for selecting a path from one or more
9 communication paths coupling the message router and the
10 remote computer to pass the message to the remote computer;
11 and
12   a local communication interface for accepting data
13 including the message and transmitting the data to the
14 remote computer over the selected path.

1   22. The system of claim 21 wherein the agent
2 further determines whether the information related to the
3 local update should be sent to the remote computer.

1   23. The system of claim 22 further comprising:

2   a remote database;

3   a remote communication interface on the remote

4 computer for accepting the transmitted data including the

5 message; and

6   a remote application for accepting the information

7 related to the local update from the remote communication

8 interface, and for updating the remote database using that

9 information.

1   24. The system of claim 23 wherein

2   the remote communication interface further accepts

3 information related to a remote update to the remote

4 database and selects which of the one or more communication

5 paths coupling the remote computer to the message router

6 should be used to transmit the information related to the

7 remote update to the message router.

1   25. The system of claim 23 wherein the remote

2 communication interface includes a hook module that accepts

3 the message including the information related to the local

4 update and provides the information to the remote

5 application over an application program interface.

1   26. The system of claim 21 further comprising a

2 networked server for receiving the data transmitted from the

3 local communication interface, including a database for

4 storing that data prior to communicating with the remote

5 computer.

1   27. Software stored on a computer readable medium

2 for causing a computer to perform the functions of:

3   assessing information related to an update of a

4 local database;

5   determining whether to forward the information to a

6 remote computer;

7   selecting a communication path for passing the

8 information to the remote computer;

9   forming a message including the information; and

10   sending the message on the selected communication

11 path to the remote computer.

1   28. Software stored on a computer readable medium

2 for causing a computer to perform the functions of:

3   accepting a message from another computer including

4 remote update information related to a database update;

5   providing the remote update information to an

6 application program for updating a local database stored on

7 the computer;

8   accepting local update information related to an

9 update of the local database from the application program;

10   determining whether to send the local update

11 information to the other computer; and

12   sending the local update information to the other

13 computer.